

From: Wade Maxfield
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:51pm
Subject: Regarding the Settlement between US Gov and Microsoft

Microsoft has had a long history of blatantly ignoring the US Department of Justice agreements they have signed. That is why they ended up before the court in the first place.

This latest agreement appears to mimic B'rer Rabbit's Response to B'rer Fox -- "Please don't throw me in the briar patch!" Whereupon the rabbit laughs at the fox and runs off happy as can be.

Because Microsoft owns over 90% of the desktop market, and because they act like they own over 90% of the desktop market, their ability to act like a monopoly should be severely curtailed.

This means that alternative operating systems owned by other entities (commercial or not) should be introduced into the educational mainstream by Microsoft. Alternative operating systems owned by other entities should be supported and fostered by Microsoft.

For example, Microsoft should actively develop, sell, and support Compilers, Development Environments, Office application systems, Internet explorer, and other products for other operating systems, including Macintosh, AIX, Linux, BSD in an equal manner.

Microsoft should also be curtailed from electronically collecting detailed information from end users, whether for product activation or product execution. To allow them to continue their current practices could present a national security risk. Other branches of the government have already shown by anecdotes that Microsoft products have many security holes. According to newspaper reports, Passport has been hacked, Windows XP has been hacked, etc. The FBI has put out stern warnings. The list continues.

To avoid concentrating too much power into too few hands, the information collection systems portion of Microsoft should be spun off into a stand alone unit. Already collected information would be available under the purview of current legal structures in various states. This would allow third parties equal access, preventing a monopolistic freeze out. This would derail much of Microsoft's current advantages.

Finally, please do not allow the current "slap on the wrist" to be the final word to Microsoft. It will do nothing to curtail Microsoft's predatory business practices. If it stands as is, it will result in Microsoft ending back in court within a decade, with even more difficult

decisions to be made.

sincerely,
Wade Maxfield